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necessity for reducing the consumption of rice to meet the present shortage of rice was emphasised in the Conference. The Hotel Proprietors and the Catering Establishments were therefore requested to try all avenues of reducing consumption of rice by the people, by popularising wheat dishes and reducing the rice content of the food, etc.

The Public have also been requested through a Press Note to co-operate with the Government in the matter of increasing food production by cultivating paddy, millets, and other food crops like potatoes, sweet-potatoes, bananas and vegetables to the maximum extent possible and by increasing production of more of animal products like eggs, milk and fish. The public have also been advised to change food habits as long-term measures both from nutritional and economic point of view by including in their diet more of wheat, ragi, vegetables, fruits, etc.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 453 asked by Sri S. Lazar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 29th March 1958, page 209 supra.]

FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE STATE.

The price of paddy and rice in this State began to rise from March 1956. In order to arrest the above upward trend in price, a scheme for selling rice to consumers through fair price shops at controlled rates was introduced by the Government. Under this scheme, rice was supplied by the Government of India at Rs. 16·00 per maund ex-Railway stations at important centres, and the fair price shops sold the rice to the consumers at prices fixed by the Collector. In all, about 2,000 fair price shops were functioning in this State till about the beginning of February 1957. Early in February 1957, the Government of India anticipated a downward trend in prices, following the samba harvest and therefore considered that there was no need to maintain the fair price shops for about four to five months and that the stocks available could, with advantage, be conserved for use during the lean months. The prices, however, did not go down as expected and the fair price shops had to be continued particularly in the large non-agricultural areas like Madras City, Coimbatore, etc. The offtake from the fair price shops had been steady during December 1956 and January 1957. There was reduced offtake during the months of February to May 1957 which was due to availability of stocks just after the main harvest. The offtake continued to increase from June 1957. Till 1st October 1957, two Madras measures of rice per adult per day in Madras City and other urban areas and one Madras measure of rice in other places were being issued through the fair price shops. As the supply position of rice became difficult, the Government of India expressed inability to give rice for issue through fair price

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shops. On representation by this Government, they, however, agreed to give 4,000 tons per month up to 28th February 1958 as a loan to be replaced after the main harvest in the State in February. The number of fair price shops was, therefore, reduced by 50 per cent on 1st October 1957. Subsequently, with a view to popularize wheat, the reduction in the number of fair price shops was restored, but the quantity of rice issued through these shops was reduced by half so that the total requirements remained the same. Five Madras measures of wheat per head per day are also being issued to those who require it. There were during February 1958, 799 fair price shops and it was ordered to stop the issue of rice through these shops by the end of February 1958 as supplies of rice were not expected to be received from the Government of India after that date. The price of rice in the open market in Tanjore in February 1958 was reported to be Rs. 18·56 per maund of kuruvai rice and Rs. 20 per maund of samba rice.

Clause (i)—*Expected yield of foodgrains during the year* 1958.—Estimates framed for the fasli year 1957–58 are furnished below :—

Grain.	*Production in tons (in terms of cleaned grain).*
Rice	3,157,000
Cholam	408,000
Cumbu	203,000
Ragi	324,000
Korra	18,000
Varagu	179,000
Samai	54,000
Maize	3,000
Wheat	500
Other cereals	23,000
Total cereals ...	4,370,000

The above figures are only provisional as they are based only on partial data received so far.

Clause (ii)—*Probable requirements of foodgrains for the State during* 1958 *separately in respect of rice, wheat and millets.*—The probable requirements of rice and millets for consumption and for seed purposes have been estimated as follows :—

	Requirements for consumption at 16 oz per adult per diem.	*Seed requirements.*	*Total requirements for Consumption and seed.*
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
Rice	3,145,000	109,000	3,254,000
Millets	1,395,000	22,000	1,417,000
Wheat	52,000	...	52,000

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Details as to how the figures have been arrived at are given below :—

I. *Estimates of population in* 1958 (1957–58).

(i) Total estimated population in Madras State in 1958 (1957–58) ...	33,152,000
(ii) Estimate population in terms of adults	27,863,000

II. *Estimates of rice and millet-eating population. in* 1958 (1957–58).

(i) Rice-eating population in terms of adults calculated at 69 per cent of the population	19,300,000 (A)
(ii) Millet-eating population in terms of adults, calculated at 31 per cent of the population	8,563,000 (B)

III. *Requirements of rice and millets in* 1958 (1957–58).

(*a*) Rice—

	TONS.
(i) Requirements at the rate of 16 oz. per adult per diem for the rice-eating population in terms of adults, viz., 19,300,000 (A) above	3,145,000
(ii) Requirements for seed at the rate of 44 lb. (in terms of rice) per acre for the estimated area of 5,552,000 acres (to the nearest thousand tons)	109,000
(iii) Total requirements of rice for consumption and seed	3,254,000

(*b*) Millets—

(i) Requirements at the rate of 16 oz. per adult per diem for the millet-eating population in terms of adults, viz., 8,563,000 (B) above under item II	1,395,000
(ii) Seed requirements at the rate of 9 lb. (in terms of cleaned grain) per acre for 5,570,000 acres (to the nearest thousand tons) ...	22,000

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	TONS.
(iii) Total requirements of millets for consumption and seed ...	1,417,000
(c) Wheat	52,000

Clause (iii)—*Supplies expected from the Centre.*—The Government of India agreed to supply 4,000 tons of rice per mensem to fair price shops up to the end of February 1958 on a loan basis. No other supply is expected from the centre in 1958. So far as wheat is concerned, about 55,275 tons were supplied to this State by the Government of India during 1957. About the same quantity, viz., 55,000 tons may be expected to be supplied during 1958 also for sale to consumers through fair price shops.